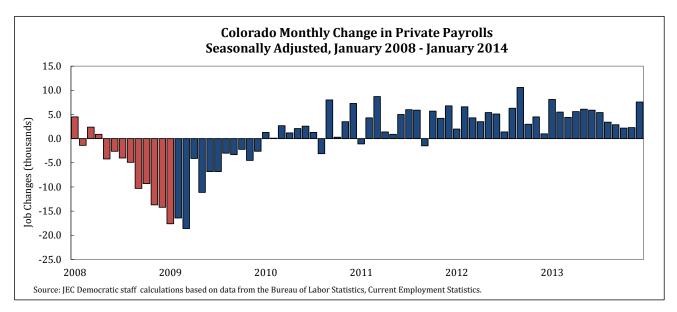
## **ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: COLORADO**

\*\*Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through January 2014\*\*

#### JOBS

- In January, private-sector employment in Colorado grew by 7,600 jobs. Over the past year, the Colorado private sector has added 59,400 jobs. This compares with an increase of 53,700 jobs over the 12 months ending in January 2013.
- Colorado private-sector employers have added 185,400 jobs (an increase of 10.2 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Colorado, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: professional and business services (52,600 jobs), leisure and hospitality (36,000 jobs) and education and health services (31,500 jobs).
- The Colorado sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: mining and logging (37.2 percent), professional and business services (16.0 percent) and leisure and hospitality (13.8 percent).



### UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Colorado was 6.1 percent in January 2014, down 0.1 percentage point from December. The rate is down 1.1 percentage points from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 9.1 percent in October 2010.
- 168,500 Colorado residents were unemployed during January 2014, down from a recent high of 246,700 in October 2010. There are still 57,400 more people unemployed in Colorado than when the recession begain.
- In Colorado, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 13,584 during January, down 1.7 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 6.5 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

### **EXPORTS**

- In Colorado, exports totaled \$628 million in January and \$8.6 billion over the past year, up 6.1 percent from the 12 months ending in January 2013 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Colorado exports over the past 12 months are up 34.0 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

### Housing

- Home prices in Colorado increased by 8.2 percent from the fourth quarter of 2012 to the fourth quarter of 2013 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 13.0 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011 and are now 2.4 percent above their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Colorado totaled 26,590 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in January 2014, a decrease of 20.7 percent from December.
- Within the West census region, which includes Colorado, sales of new single-family homes totaled 111,000 units in January 2014, an increase of 11.0 percent from December 2013. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased by 8.3 percent to 880,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from December 2013 to January 2014.

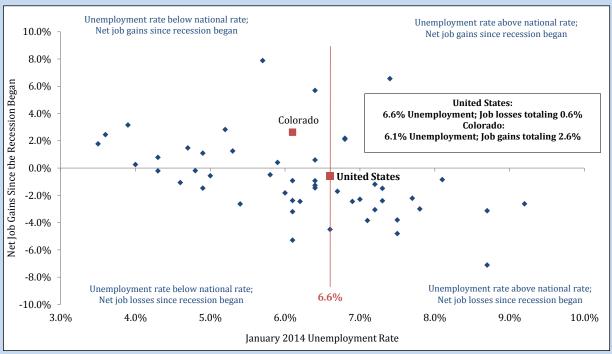
<sup>\*</sup> For Colorado-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Colorado office: http://www.colmigateway.com/default.asp

# How Does Colorado Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Colorado to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Colorado, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.6% and net job gains totaling 24.7% since the start of the recession.

	STATE QUICK FACTS		
		Colorado	United States
Unemployment Rates	January 2014	6.1%	6.6%
	January 2013	7.2%	7.9%
	January 2012	8.2%	8.2%
	January 2011	8.8%	9.1%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2013	10.3%	9.0%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	7.1%	6.6%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	7.0%	9.0%
Median Household Income	. 2012	\$ 57,255	\$ 51,017
(2012 \$)	2007	\$ 67,707	\$ 55,627
Poverty Rate	2012	11.9%	15.0%
	2007	9.8%	12.5%
No Health Insurance	. 2012	13.7%	15.4%
	2007	16.0%	14.7%